

## **Barrow Community Forum: Themes and Issues Raised**

**November 12, 2015**

Interest in understanding financial eligibility; emphasized need to ensure that the difference in the cost of living across the state is taken into account when determining financial eligibility. (3x)

Recommendation to assist individuals coming out of the correctional system to reduce recidivism and ultimately save the State more dollars. There should be a formal system to identify individuals being released from prison who might qualify for assistance. (2x, others concurred.)

Testimony on the bureaucracy and burden of Medicaid recertification. Required to recertify in Anchorage (do not get financial assistance for the travel), complete a very lengthy application and bring all the same documentation (birth certificates, etc.) The 1-800 number for Medicaid has a hold time of 20-45 minutes; appeal to streamline the process. (1x with concurrence 2x.)

Interest in the magnitude of dollars expected to go into the State plan options. (1x)

Interest in understanding how costs will be controlled; whether services will be limited. (1x)

Encouraged about ensuring people on the waitlist for 1915c receive some level of service through the State plan options. (1x)

Testimony on the importance of assisting individuals with mental health /substance use disorder issues. (1x)

Testimony from participant on the value of the State administered services they currently receive. (1x)